

## San José State University Emeritus Faculty Association Biography

**Name:** Jo Bell Whitlatch

**Department:** Library

**Academic Rank:** Librarian

**Year Retired:** 2006



<b>Colleges or Universities Attended:</b>	<b>Year Degree</b>
---	--------------------

U of California, Berkeley, Library & Info Studies	1987 PhD
---	----------

U of California, Berkeley, Asian Studies	1973 MA
--	---------

U of Minnesota, Library Science	1966 MA
---------------------------------	---------

U of Minnesota, History	1964 BA
-------------------------	---------

<b>Teaching Experience:</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
-----------------------------	-------------	-----------

School of Library & Information Science, San José State U	1987	2009
---	------	------

Courses taught at various times:

Information Organizations & Management, Advanced Information Resources & Services, Reference & Information Services, Information and Society

### **Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):**

Associate Library Dean, San José State University (2001-2006)

History Liaison, SJSU Library, San José State University (1992-2004)

Extensive library experience covers three academic libraries (College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN - 1965-1967; Stanislaus State College, Turlock, CA - 1968 - 1972; San Jose State, San Jose, CA - 1973-2006) and many areas, including

collection management, acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, reference, interlibrary loan, and library management.

### **Selected Publications:**

Publications include three books, *Competency-Based Career Planning for Reference and User Services Professionals* (2019), *The Role of the Academic Reference Librarian* (1990), *Evaluating Reference Services* (2000), and articles in *RQ*, *College & Research Libraries*, *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, and *the Reference Librarian*.

### **Personal Commentary:**

I began my 33 years as a librarian at San Jose State in 1973, following seven years of experience in two smaller colleges, Stanislaus State in the Central Valley and the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. In the smaller colleges, I worked in all library functions, cataloging, circulation, reference, collection development . . . The larger SJSU library had more clearly defined functional assignments, which required some adjustment on my part! However, over time during the years at San Jose, I moved back and forth from one job assignment to another – in cataloging, circulation, collection development, reference and management.

In 1973, as part of the CSU system movement toward faculty status for librarians, a second master's was required for librarian promotion; I was able to fulfill this requirement by enriching my knowledge of Asian Studies, one of my lifelong interests. I participated in the protracted struggle to obtain faculty status for librarians through activities in UPC (United Professors of California) and CFA (California Faculty Association). Important steps along the path to faculty status were the 10-month option (1976), sabbatical leaves (1983-1986 contract), and finally placement of librarian ranks on the faculty salary schedule (1987-1991 contract).

After arriving at SJSU, I quickly became involved in campus and CSU activities. I enjoyed participating in a wide range of campus activities, including the Academic Senate, California Faculty Association, Center for Asian Studies, and Phi Kappa Phi. I also taught reference and management courses for future librarians in the master's program (now the SJSU Information School). I particularly enjoyed teaching sessions in the 100W courses in History and Political Science as well as information literacy sessions in other courses in these departments. My contributions to campus life, friendships, and connections definitely enriched my life at SJSU.

With all the changes in technology and the establishment of the King Library partnership between the University and the City of San Jose, I had a very rewarding and interesting career at SJSU. In retirement when I visit the King

Library, I am always delighted to see so many SJSU faculty, students, and San Jose residents enjoying the city/university library. Particularly meaningful to me was the establishment in 2006 of the Jo Bell Whitlatch History Endowment Fund, which supports the development of the history collection.

My very challenging and enjoyable career also provided resources for my many retirement activities, for which I am very appreciative. In retirement, I have tried to support SJSU by serving in various offices in SJSU ERFA (Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association) as Secretary, President, and Member-at-Large. Retirement has enabled me to pursue my long term interests in Asian Studies by serving on the Evergreen Education Foundation, a small Bay Area nonprofit that provides educational opportunities to students in rural China through scholarships, teacher development, and information literacy programs. Through the Foundation I have made many trips to China. I have also traveled internationally to all seven continents. I do walking, Yoga, and swimming regularly so that I can continue to travel actively and enjoy events with friends and family for many additional years!

**Date Completed:** August 11, 2018